



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

Release Date: July 28, 2006

Release Number: TX 10545, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 - 01

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in the following Texas counties may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by adverse weather conditions throughout the state, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the impact of the following weather conditions and incident dates in each disaster:

EIDL	Primary Counties	Neighboring Counties	Incident Type	Incident Date	Deadline
10545	Lee	Bastrop, Burleson, Fayette, Milam, Washington & Williamson	High Winds	04/20/06	03/13/07
10546	Kenedy	Brooks, Hidalgo, Kleberg & Willacy	Drought, Excessive Temperatures & High Winds	01/01/06 & continuing	03/13/07
10547	Colorado & Pecos	Austin, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Fayette, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Lavaca, Reeves, Terrell, Ward, Wharton	Drought	01/01/06 & continuing	03/20/07
10548	Dimmit	Frio, La Salle, Maverick, Webb & Zavala	Drought	01/01/06 & continuing	03/20/07
10549	Duval	Brooks, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen & Webb	Drought, High Winds & High Temperatures	01/01/06 & continuing	03/20/07
10550	Mason	Gillespie, Kimble, Llano, McCulloch, Menard & San Saba	Drought & Excessive heat	01/01/06 & continuing	03/20/07
10551	Nolan	Coke, Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, Runnels, Scurry & Taylor	Drought, Fire & High Winds	01/01/06 & continuing	03/20/06

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

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SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared these disasters at the request of Governor Rick Perry.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

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